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LETTER DATED 1 JULY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the ever more frequent attempts to re-interpret the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) relative to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Fully respectful of the established timetable, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has implemented its obligations under the said resolution and the Military Technical Agreement consistently and in good faith. Therefore, it has every right to expect the United Nations mission in Kosovo and Metohija to scrupulously implement its obligations under the resolution relative to safety guarantees to all citizens, disarmament of the so-called "Kosovo Liberation Army" and the respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, an integral part of which is Kosovo and Metohija.

The resolution leaves no doubt that Kosovo and Metohija is an integral part of the unified constitutional, financial, legal, customs and tax system of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Therefore, the statements of some representatives of the United Nations on the need for introducing a separate currency for Kosovo and Metohija are very surprising since it would constitute a serious violation of the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, by extension, of the said resolution.

With regard to the establishment of a provisional and interim administration in Kosovo and Metohija, it is necessary that all measures and solutions be taken in cooperation with, and with the agreement of, the legal authorities of my country, and to proceed from full respect for its unified legal, economic and monetary systems. This includes the right of the Yugoslav authorities to control their international borders and to maintain Yugoslav customs and immigration services on its border crossings.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned, I wish to point to an urgent need for a speedy conclusion of a comprehensive agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the United Nations. Such a document should define the status and mandate of the overall international presence in Kosovo and Metohija that in its

entirety is under United Nations auspices. In that way conditions would be created for even better cooperation and coordination between the said international presence and my country, which is an important precondition for a successful evolvement of this complex and responsible United Nations mission in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the victim of the illegal NATO aggression which caused a humanitarian catastrophe and material destruction of large proportions, neither understands nor accepts the selective approach to the provision of humanitarian assistance and the restriction of resources only to the reconstruction of Kosovo and Metohija. During its aggression, NATO targeted and systematically destroyed the entire infrastructure of the country, such as its bridges, roads, refineries and power and water supply systems, as well as its schools, hospitals and factories, the destruction of which accounted for massive unemployment and the loss of any income for over 2.5 million people.

The humanitarian situation will be further aggravated by the 100,000 Serbs who have fled Kosovo and Metohija since the arrival of KFOR, only adding to the 700,000 Serbian refugees who had already fled ethnic hatred and persecution in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and found shelter in Serbia. The full effect of the devastation of the country will be felt with the advent of cold weather in autumn and winter, when the short supply of heating oil to heat houses and fuel to finish the ongoing harvest and the autumn planting will affect not only the refugees but the entire population. For this reason, humanitarian assistance should also include the reconstruction of the power system of the country, its heating plants, bridges, roads, schools and hospitals and the creation of conditions for re-employment of the people who have been rendered unemployed by the NATO aggression.

In conclusion, I recall the letter of Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to the President of the Security Council on 28 June 1999 (S/1999/729, annex), in which he stressed that the Security Council, that is, KFOR and UNMIK, bear primary responsibility for providing safety to all residents of Kosovo and Metohija and for disarming the "KLA" and other armed groups of Kosovo and Metohija Albanians. As intimidation and terror directed against non-Albanians and aimed at creating ethnically pure Kosovo and Metohija continue, it is necessary that, in addition to verbal support to the requests of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, KFOR and UNMIK act in an urgent and energetic way to fulfil their obligations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.